

Based Upon: PCT/EP2002/008630

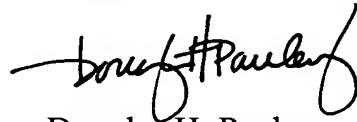
REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above Preliminary Amendment to place this U.S. Patent Application in better form for examination and prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

The claims have been amended to more definitely and fully claim the subject matter of Applicant's invention. Applicant urges that the above Preliminary Amendment introduces no new matter into this U.S. Patent Application.

Applicant sincerely believes that this U.S. Patent Application is now in condition for examination and prosecution before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas H. Pauley", written over a horizontal line.

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Discussion of Related Art

DEVICE FOR BRIQUETTING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION
Field of the Invention

[Apparatus for making briquettes]

[^{This} The invention relates to an apparatus for making dust or sediment into briquettes [in accordance with the main preamble of claim 1].

[^{An} This type of apparatus is known in ^{taught by European Patent Reference} EP-B1-0 748 276. The charging screw [in this case] conveys the material to be pressed directly into the shaping chamber via the container opening and the supply opening. This apparatus

is ^{particularly} [more especially conceived] for making old paper and waste paper into briquettes. The charging apparatus ^{known} [in this case] is a component part of the briquette press.

It is ^{one} [the] object of ^{this} [the] invention to ^{provide} [create] an apparatus of the type referred to ^{above but} [in the main preamble of claim 1] which can be used in a more flexible manner.

This object is achieved with ^{an apparatus for making briquettes as described in this specification and in the claims} [the] features of [claim 1].

With ^{Also} [By] various charging apparatuses being attachable, the apparatus according to ^{embodiment} this [the] invention can be adapted to ^{this} [the] different waste materials loaded into the briquette press. [In addition, maintenance work on the charging apparatuses is] ^{embodiment} [made] easier.

According to another ^{further} [development] of ^{this} [the] invention, a pipe, [which is] provided with screen openings, is disposed between the container opening and the supply opening. Consequently, in the case of waste sludge, the moisture parts can be separated from the solid parts, which means that the material to be pressed is extensively dry as it passes into the shaping chamber, where it can then be compacted ^{embodiment} [even more]. The separated moist substances can be collected and disposed of. The ease with which the charging apparatuses can be removed also makes it simple to replace the pipe.

According to another development of ^{this} [the] invention, the screen openings are in the form of slots which extend in the longitudinal direction of the pipe or in an inclined manner. [Consequently] the material to be pressed has enough time to dry off during the conveying process. ~~Thus~~ Thus

The attachable charging apparatuses can be developed in various ways. The container of the charging apparatus according to additional ^{embodiments} [developments] of

^{positioned} this [the] invention can thus be either funnel-shaped or box-shaped, directly above the bottom of the container ^{where} [there] ^{are} [being provided] at least two feeder screws, which are ^{the} [disposed] next to the charging screw and at a specific angle relative to [said] charging screw, preferably at right angles.

[In the latter case, according] ^{embodiment} [to another] ^{this} [development] of [the] invention, the feeder screws and/or the charging screw ^{each} [is] ^{embodiment} [or are] respectively mounted in an advantageous manner on only one side on the container. This achieves unrestricted conveying of the waste material. ^{which}

According to another ^{embodiment} [development] of ^{this} [the] invention, the attachment of the charging apparatus to the briquette press is accomplished by ^{thus} [means of] locking connections. [This means that] the charging apparatuses can be attached and removed in a particularly rapid manner.

^{This} [The] invention is now described in more detail by way of ^{BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS} [exemplified] different ^{embodiments} [embodiments]. In which:

^{in view of the drawings, wherein.}

- Figure 1 is a side view of an apparatus according to ^{this} the invention, for making metal grinding sludge into briquettes;
- Figure 2 is a top view of the apparatus ^{shown} in Figure 1; and
- Figure 3 is a top view of another charging apparatus, which is attachable to the briquette press shown in Figures 1 and 2.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The apparatus ^{shown} represented in Figures 1 and 2 has a charging apparatus, which includes a container 1, ^{that} which is in the form of a funnel for charging material to be pressed and opens out into a tank 2. A charging screw 3 is mounted in the tank 2, said charging screw being driven by a screw driving means 4. This screw driving means comprises gearing and an electric motor. ^{and is} driver or or near In the region of the charging screw 3 the tank 2 ^{has} is provided with a container opening 5. This charging apparatus is ^{thus} consequently in the form of an independent module.

In addition, the apparatus has a briquette press, which is installed on a base plate 6 and includes a shaping chamber 7 and a cylinder piston unit 8 ^{the} attached to ^{has} said shaping chamber, the piston 9 of said cylinder piston unit ^{being provided with} a press ram 10. The piston 9 is driven by a pneumatic or hydraulic driving means (not represented). The press ram 10, in this case, is moved backwards and forwards in the shaping chamber 7 to make the briquettes. The shaping chamber 7 ^{has} is provided with a lateral supply opening 11. Between the container opening 5 and the supply opening 11 there is ^{can be} disposed a pipe 12 with screen openings, which are in the form of slots, such as the slot 13. The pipe 12 ^{the} in this case is secured to the tank 2 ^{so as} to be easily interchangeable. The container 1 with ^{the} charging screw 3 and screw driving means 4 is disposed ^{so as} to be displaceable in the longitudinal direction of the screw relative to the shaping chamber 7 and ^{so as} to be fixable in position ^{so} which means that different types and lengths of pipes 12 can be used.

In addition, the apparatus has a closure slide apparatus 14, which comprises ^{the} a cylinder piston unit and a closure slide 16, which is connected to the piston 15 of said cylinder piston unit and closes or respectively opens the end of the shaping chamber 7 situated opposite the press ram 10. The means for driving the piston 15 is pneumatic or hydraulic.

The apparatus also has a displacement pickup 17, which is secured to the cylinder piston unit 8. A variable pressing operation is possible with this displacement pickup. The speed of the press ram is variable in ^{a forward} the forwards direction and can consequently be adapted to an optimum pressing result. This variable speed can, for example, preferably be achieved with regulatable pumps at a constant speed or with constant pumps with preferably frequency regulated drive motors.

The charging apparatus 1-4, which is formed as an independent module, is mounted on the briquette press 6-17 ^{so as} to be easily interchangeable.

Once the container 1^{is} [has been] charged, the material to be pressed, in this case metal grinding sludge, is forced into the pipe 12 and into the shaping chamber 7 by [means of] the charging screw 3 with the closure slide 16 closed. At the same time, the moist substances and gases of the sludge are separated from the rest of the material to be pressed through the screw pressure. The moist substances are discharged via the slots 13 of the pipe 12 and are collected and disposed of in a manner not shown. The screw driving means 4^{has} [is provided with] a current consumer, which responds before the charging screw 3 becomes blocked and stops the screw driving means 4. The dehydrated material to be pressed in the shaping chamber 7 is then pressed by the press ram to form briquettes, which are forced out once the closure slide 16 is open. [In the case of] some types of material to be pressed^{with} it is advantageous if the pressure is removed from the press ram after the first pressing operation and is then applied once again. This means that it is easier for the residual air or moisture in the briquette, compressed at pressing pressures of up to 5000kh/m², to dissipate.

The other charging apparatus 30^{shown} [represented] in Figure 3 includes a container, ^{having} [which is made up by] a bottom 36, two side walls 31, 32, a front wall 33 and a rear wall 34 [which is] situated opposite the front wall. The side walls 31, 32^{. The} and the rear wall 34 are approximately the same height [the] front wall 33, however, is kept significantly lower at the point where a container (not shown) with waste material is emptied. Three independent driving means 41 for three^{. The} feeder screws 40 are secured to the lower front wall 33, said three feeder screws 40 are attached horizontally and parallel to one another above the bottom 36 and are mounted only on the front wall 33. Vertically relative to the longitudinal direction of the feeder screws 40 and at the same height as the feeder screws there is [disposed] a charging screw 37, which is also attached above the bottom 36, provided with [its own] driving means 38 and [is] mounted only on the side wall 31. Deviating from this right-angled disposition of feeder screws and charger screw, it is also possible for them to be disposed at another angle one relative to the other.

The charging apparatus 30 is [consequently] in the form of an independent module. It can be attached to the briquette press shown in Figures 1 and 2 [so as] to be easily interchangeable.

The attachment of the charging apparatus 1-4 or respectively 30 to the briquette press is accomplished preferably by [means of] locking connections.

When the feeder screws 40 and the charging screw 37 are set in operation, the feeder screws 40 convey the waste material, in the form of, for example, metal shavings, in the direction of the charging screw 37, which takes over the metal shavings and with a change in direction guides them to the briquette press. The metal shavings processed in the briquette press do not need to be reduced into small pieces before being introduced into the charging apparatus 30. There is no agitator required in the charging apparatus 30 to mix the different types of metal shavings. The apparatus is [consequently] in a position^{thus}

to process shavings with different thicknesses and lengths, metal shaving balls, etc., without any preliminary processing [whatsoever].

As [already] mentioned, the feeder screws 40 and the charging screw 37 ^{have} (are provided with) separate driving means. With these separate driving means it is possible, in the event of the metal shavings being unevenly distributed on the bottom 36 of the charging apparatus 3, to operate one feeder screw and to stop another feeder screw. The adjustment of the independent operation of the individual feeder screws 40, the interaction of the speeds of the feeder screws 40 in the case of forward rotation or respectively backward rotation, the dependence of the operation of the screw 40, 37 on the resistance of the waste material to be processed etc. are controlled by programming units, this which are generally known and are not objects of [the] invention. These programming units, however, can also have different programs which include specific characteristics or characteristics that differ greatly from each other.